



## Summary



VSDBM-H, in dialogue with local school divisions, has noted the scarcity of available oral education classrooms for deaf and hard of hearing children. The goal of auditory-oral education is for students to gain the skills to successfully enter mainstream education. In order for children to do that, it is imperative that they receive very specified instruction, training and support in their early years. We believe that VSDBM-H can help local school divisions by providing an appropriate educational program for these young children.

Our goal is to provide oral deaf children the best opportunity for success by developing age-appropriate listening and language skills, enabling them to transition successfully into the general education environment as soon as possible.



## Enrollment

VSDBM-H is currently accepting applications for the Auditory-Oral Program from local school divisions.



- Students must be eligible for special education services. Typically, students of this program will be between 3 to 5 years old.
- It is **strongly recommended** that younger students are toilet-trained.
- Classes meet from 8:00-12:00 on Monday through Thursday.
- Breakfast and a mid-morning snack are provided.



## Interested?



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# the Auditory-Oral Preschool Program

of the  
Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-Disabled  
at Hampton



The Virginia School for the Deaf, Blind and Multi-Disabled at Hampton is pleased to provide a unique program for deaf and hard of hearing children in the Tidewater Area. The program's goal is to develop listening and speaking skills in children who have a hearing loss.

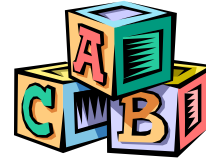
## Auditory-Oral Education



Technological advances in amplification, including increasing rates of cochlear implantation in young children, have made spoken language more accessible to children with a hearing loss than ever before. Fluency in spoken language is attainable for many of these children. It is the goal of the auditory-oral educational approach that children learn academic and literacy skills through spoken language, being educated in the general education classroom as soon as possible.

The Auditory-Oral Program at VSDBMH uses this educational approach, based on the principles of auditory-verbal therapy (AVT). Classes are small and lessons target comprehension, expressive language and auditory skills. A high priority is placed on appropriate amplification and parental support. Techniques and strategies commonly used in AVT sessions are adapted for classroom use.

## Objectives



We provide:

- an auditory/oral classroom in which listening and speaking are taught
- instruction using auditory-verbal strategies and techniques
- regular student interaction with non-disabled peers
- small classes intensely focused on developing spoken language skills
- instruction by a certified teacher of the deaf
- support services by speech/language pathologists, an educational audiologist and skilled staff.
- involvement in enrichment classes such as Art, Music, Physical Education and Library
- a partnership with parents, offering support and training
- support services to local school divisions through consultations, trainings and workshops
- coordination of services and a close working relationship with private therapists and other service providers

Sign language is not used within this program.



## Curriculum

The Auditory/Oral Program uses theme-based curricula with a strong emphasis on listening and speaking. In addition, other curricula are referenced for specific auditory training. During age-appropriate developmental activities, the children are provided consistent, rich language exposure and listening opportunities. Lessons

and activities support the Foundation Blocks for Early Learning, Virginia's standards for early childhood programs. As the children learn basic developmental skills, language and listening are emphasized in every activity.

